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MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Establishment of Joint OSO/OPC Communications Board

1. We are agreed that the effective functioning of communications in meeting the vital operational and service needs of both the Office of Special Operations and the Office of Policy Coordination is based on the following premises:

a. The successful discharge of the responsibilities of OSO and OPC requires for both the establishment and maintenance of adequate communications facilities throughout the world.

b. It would be impractical, duplicative and prohibitively costly to establish a separate communications system for each office.

c. Communication bases and service facilities can be shared by the two offices under proper controls and with proper allowances for the security and operational factors of paramount concern to each office. Clandestine communications for agent operations should be handled directly between the office concerned and the Communications Division.

d. For those instances where facilities of such vital importance to each office are to be used jointly, it is essential to establish an adequate system of joint responsibility and guidance.

2. In order to effect the proper functioning of communications in servicing the vital needs of both OSO and OPC, it is proposed that a joint OSO/OPC Communications Board be established consisting of one representative from each office, together with the Chief, Communications Division. This Board will furnish policy and operational guidance to the Communications Division in effectuation of the policies and instructions of the Assistant Director, Office of Special Operations, and the Assistant Director, Office of Policy Coordination.

3. As this proposal is viewed as an interim measure pending

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the implementation of basic organizational decisions affecting OSO and OPC, including the implementation of NSC 50, no change is contemplated in the present direct administrative control channel from the Chief, Communications Division, to the Assistant Director for Special Operations.

4. The joint OSO/OPC Communications Board will be concerned in particular with the following:

a. Establishment of mutually agreed priorities for the installation and operation of communications facilities. *sh*

b. Reconciliation of the joint requirements of the two offices and the capabilities of the Communications Division to fulfill them within the limitations of available facilities and the particular security and operational interests and requirements of each office. *sh*

c. Continuous review of cable procedures. 

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d. Pooling of capabilities for negotiations with other government agencies and foreign governments. *sh*

5. This Board will not assume responsibility for or attempt to direct the day-to-day operations of the Communications Division, but will limit itself to overall supervision and review and to supplying operational and policy guidance through the Chief, Communications Division, pursuant to the instructions and policies of the respective Assistant Directors. The Board will meet periodically and the Chief, Communications Division, will maintain complete records of its proceedings, copies of which will be filed with the respective OPC and OSO representatives. 

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6. This Board will have no jurisdiction or responsibility with regard to existing or future relationships, policies or operations affecting special intelligence or related special source matters.

7. Action: Your approval of the above proposal is requested as an interim solution of the present problem involved in affording adequate communications support to the Office of Special Operations and the Office of Policy Coordination.

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Assistant Director for  
Special Operations

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Assistant Director for  
Policy Coordination

Approved: *sh*

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